

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /048 W
-----007747 131621Z /53

O 131601Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9692
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 00209

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES HOLD RETREAT AT
WILDBAD-KREUTH

1. THE 53 CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN
TWO-DAY RETREAT AT WILDBAD-KREUTH JANUARY 12-14. THEY
ARE TO DISCUSS THE FINANCING OF SOCIAL BENEFITS,
TERRORISM, UNEMPLOYMENT, THE RECENTLY ENACTED FEDERAL
LAW ON CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR STATUS AND THE POLITICAL
STRATEGY TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION.

2. BECAUSE A MAJORITY OF THE 53 CSU DEPUTIES WHO MET
IN KREUTH IN NOVEMBER 1976 VOTED TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE
CSU "FRAKTION" (PARTY CAUCUS) IN THE BUNDESTAG, THERE
HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT A
"SECOND KREUTH."

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3. CONGEN UNDERSTANDS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE AND GROWING
SENTIMENT AMONG CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES IN FAVOR OF THE
CREATION OF A SEPARATE CSU "FRAKTION" IN BUNDESTAG. IN
CONGEN'S JUDGMENT, HOWEVER, CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS IS NOT
REPEAT NOT INTERESTED IN SEEING THE CSU DEPUTIES TAKE
SUCH A DECISION AT THIS TIME. STRAUSS PRESUMABLY WOULD
NOT REPEAT NOT WANT TO TIRIGGER SERIOUS INTERNAL

DEBATE WITHIN CSU SEVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE BAVARIAN
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND NINE MONTHS BEFORE THE BAVARIAN
LANDTAG ELECTIONS.

4. WHILE

A STRONG LEADER, STRAUSS IS NO REPEAT NO PARTY
DICTATOR. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CSU DEPUTIES
WILL AGAIN VOTE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE "FRAKTION,"
THIS TIME OVER STRAUSS' OBJECTIONS, CONGEN CONSIDERS THIS
UNLIKELY.

5. CONGEN BELIEVES THAT STRAUSS WILL ATTEMPT TO GET CSU
BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES TO ENDORSE HIS CONCEPT OF A PROPER
STRATEGY FOR CDU/CSU OPPOSITION. HE WOULD THEN ATTEMPT
TO IMPOSE THIS STRATEGY ON THE CDU VIA THE JOINT
STRATEGY COMMISSION.

6. IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE A MISTAKE IN CONGEN'S VIEW
TO ASSUME THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE CSU "FRAKTION"
IN BUNDESTAG IS DEAD LETTER. DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF THIS
YEAR'S LANDTAG ELECTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS IN CDU/CSU
JOINT STRATEGY COMMISSION, STRAUSS MIGHT WISH IN
LATE 1978 OR EARLY 1979 TO ENCOURAGE CSU BUNDESTAG
DEPUTIES TO TAKE A DECISION CALLING FOR SEPARATE "FRAKTION"
AS A PRELUDE TO CSU EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CANDIDATE LISTS
IN SELECTED LAENDER OUTSIDE BAVARIA FOR 1980 BUNDESTAG
ELECTION. BETTS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MUNICH00209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780020-0732
Format: TEL
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780165/aaaacddh.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5524fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3777873
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES HOLD RETREAT AT WILDBAD-KREUTH
TAGS: PINT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5524fce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014